AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-42.   (Canceled)

43.   (Currently amended) A method for device selection in a computer system, the method comprising:

creating a common dialog object suitable for displaying devices to a user on a display device;

associating a user-selected filter with the common dialog object;

obtaining device information to be displayed within the common dialog object by accessing ~~only enumerated~~ device information contained in a function discovery database;

filtering the device information using the user-selected filter to obtain a filtered subset of enumerated devices;

displaying the common dialog object with the ~~obtained device information~~ filtered subset of enumerated devices;

receiving a user selection of a device from the displayed common dialog object; and

returning a reference to [[a]] the selected device ~~which is identified based on the user selection by accessing only the enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database~~

~~wherein the enumerated device information pertains to installed devices.~~

44.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 43, wherein obtaining device information to be displayed within the common dialog object comprises filtering device information to obtain a filtered subset of enumerated devices before the device information is obtained from the function discovery database.

45-47. (Canceled)

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48.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 43, wherein accessing the ~~enumerated~~ device information contained in the function discovery database comprises using a programming interface.

49.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 48, wherein using a programming interface comprises:

creating information for a first segment of code, the information received from the common dialog object; and

communicating the information for the first segment of code to a second segment of code in the function discovery database to access functionality provided by the second segment of code.

50.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises communicating through a medium.

51.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises dividing the communication into multiple discrete communications.

52.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 51, wherein the multiple discrete communications are divided into divisible sets of functionality.

53.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises redefining the communication by ignoring at least one or more parameters.

54.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises using one or more pieces of middleware to convert the communications of the first code segment to a second code segment.

55.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises rewriting functionality.

56.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein each segment of code includes at least one of a module, object, subroutine, and function.

57.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein each segment of code includes at least one of a source code, intermediate code, or object code.

58.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 43, wherein receiving a user selection of a device from the displayed common dialog object comprises determining whether an actionable function on a device within a user interface has been selected.

59.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 58, wherein determining whether an actionable function on a device within a user interface has been selected includes determining that a right-click has been performed.

60.   (Currently amended) A system for accessing and manipulating device information for user selected desired devices, wherein the device information is presented in a unified way, the system comprising:

a set of installed devices;

a device selection user interface having actionable icons for the set of devices;

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a function discovery database having enumerated device information corresponding to the set of installed devices;

a programming interface corresponding to the device selection user interface for interacting with the function discovery database;

a filtering component for selecting a subset of enumerated devices having a plurality of user-selectable filters and an executable component, which, when executed, filters device information using a user-selected filter to obtain a filtered subset of enumerated devices; and

a data processing component having an executable component, which, when executed:

creates a common dialog object on the user interface having actionable icons for the set of devices;

associates a user-selected filter with the common dialog object;

obtains device information a filtered subset of enumerated devices to be displayed within the common dialog object by accessing only enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface and the filtering component;

displays the common dialog object with the obtained device information filtered subset of enumerated devices;

receives a user selection of a device from the displayed common dialog object; and

returns a reference to [[a]] the selected device which is identified based on the user selection by accessing only the enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface.

61.   (Canceled)

62.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the actionable icons for the set of devices have a click option for displaying device information.

63.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 62, wherein the actionable icons for the set of devices have a right-click option for displaying device information.

64.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface includes descriptions of the set of devices.

65.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has an actionable button for a mouse.

66.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has an actionable button for a keyboard.

67.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has a control bar.

68.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 60, wherein the programming interface corresponding to the device selection user interface for interacting with the function discovery database comprises:

a first code segment on the common dialog object; and

a second code segment on the function discovery database;

wherein, when executed, the data processing component having the executable component communicates information through the first code segment to the second code segment.

69.   (Previously presented) The system of Claim 68, wherein the information being communicated through the first code segment to the second code segment is separated into multiple discrete communications.

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70. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 69, wherein the multiple discrete communications are divided into divisible sets of functionality.

71. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 68, further comprising one or more pieces of middleware to convert the information being communicated through the first code segment to the second code segment.

72. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing executable computer-readable components for presenting device information in a unified and consistent way and for accessing and manipulating device information for user selected devices, the executable computer-readable components comprising:

a device selection user interface component for displaying actionable icon components for a set of installed devices;

a programming interface component corresponding to the device selection user interface component for interacting with a function discovery database, the function discovery database having enumerated device information corresponding to a set of devices; and

a data processing component having an executable component, which, when executed:

creates a common dialog object on the user interface component having actionable icon components for the set of devices;

associates a user-selected filter with the common dialog object;

obtains device information to be displayed within the common dialog object by accessing ~~only enumerated~~ device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface component;

filtering the device information using the user-selected filter to obtain a filtered subset of enumerated devices;

displays the common dialog object with the ~~obtained device information~~ <u>filtered subset of enumerated devices</u>;

receives a user selection <u>of a device</u> from the displayed common dialog object;

returns a reference to [[a]] <u>the selected</u> device ~~which is identified based on the user selection by accessing only the enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface component~~.

73.   (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 72, further comprising a filtering component and an enumeration component, wherein the enumeration component retrieves all relevant device information in the function discovery database and the filtering component allows an application to select a subset of the device information that is returned by the enumeration component <u>according to the user-selected filter</u>.

74.   (Currently amended) A method for providing information in a unified and consistent way to a common dialog object through a programming interface, the method comprising:

receiving a first information from the common dialog object through a first segment of code on the programming interface;

accessing enumerated information concerning installed devices,~~ only~~ on a function discovery database, the first information being communicated through the first segment of code to a second segment of code on the programming interface;

<u>filtering the enumerated information using a user-selected filter to obtain a filtered subset of enumerated information;</u> and

returning the <u>filtered subset of</u> enumerated information concerning installed devices to the common dialog object through the programming interface.

75.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 74, wherein accessing enumerated information on the function discovery database comprises breaking the communication, between the first code segment and the second code segment, into multiple discrete communications.

76.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 74, wherein accessing enumerated information on the function discovery database comprises redefining the communication by the second segment of code, the second segment of code ignoring at least one or more parameters from the first segment of code.

77.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 74, further comprising using one or more pieces of middleware to convert the communication on the first code segment to the second code segment.

78.   (Canceled)